

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18. (Cancel)

19. (New) A process for the preparation of L-threonine comprising fermenting L-threonine producing *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* in which the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export protein is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of said gene, and isolating said L-threonine produced by said *Corynebacterium*.

20. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *pyc* gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase.

21. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *hom* gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase.

22. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *hom^{dr}* allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase.

23. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *mqa* gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase.

24. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein the *Corynebacterium* of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* are used.

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

25. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein the *Brevibacterium* of the species *Brevibacterium flavum* are used.

26. (New) A process for the preparation of L-threonine comprising fermenting L-threonine producing coryneform bacteria in which the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the *thrE* gene, and isolating said L-threonine produced by said coryneform bacteria, wherein said coryneform bacteria have been transformed with a plasmid vector comprising the *C. glutamicum* *thrE* gene encoding said threonine export carrier protein and said plasmid vector is pZ1*thrE*, which is deposited in *Brevibacterium flavum* under deposit number DSM12840 (support page 12, line 23, 24).

27. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *pyc* gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase.

28. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *hom* gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase.

29. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *hom^{dr}* allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase.

30. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number of the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* *mqo* gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase.

31. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein the coryneform bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium* are used.

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

32. (New) The process of claim 31, wherein the *Corynebacterium* of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* are used.

33. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein the coryneform bacteria of the genus *Brevibacterium* are used.

34. (New) The process of claim 33, wherein the *Brevibacterium* of the species *Brevibacterium flavum* are used.

35. (New) A process for the fermentative preparation of L-threonine comprising:

- (a) fermenting L-threonine producing *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* bacteria in which a *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of said gene; and, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number one or more of the coryneform genes selected from the group consisting of: the *Corynebacterium glutamicum pyc* gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom* gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom^{dr}* allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase, and the *Corynebacterium glutamicum mqo* gene encoding for malate:quinone oxidoreductase;
- (b) concentrating the L-threonine in the fermentation medium or in said coryneform bacteria; and
- (c) isolating L-threonine from the fermentation medium or coryneform bacteria of step (b).

36. (New) A process for the fermentative preparation of L-threonine comprising:

- (a) fermenting L-threonine producing coryneform bacteria in which a *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the gene; and, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by increasing the copy number of one or

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

more of the coryneform genes selected from the group consisting of:
the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* pyc gene encoding pyruvate
carboxylase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom gene encoding for
homoserine dehydrogenase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom^{dr}
allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase, and
the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* mqo gene encoding for
malate:quinone oxidoreductase;

- (b) concentrating the L-threonine in the fermentation medium or in said coryneform bacteria; and
- (c) isolating L-threonine from the fermentation medium or coryneform bacteria of step (b)

wherein said coryneform bacteria have been transformed with a plasmid vector comprising the *C. glutamicum* thrE gene encoding said threonine export carrier protein and said plasmid vector is pZ1thrE, which is deposited in *Brevibacterium flavidum* under deposit number DSM12840.

37. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein said thrE gene comprises a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

38. (New) The process of claim 37, wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 398 to 1864 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

39. (New) The process of claim 38, wherein said thrE gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3.

40. (New) A process for the preparation of L-threonine comprising fermenting L-threonine producing *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* bacteria in which the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* thrE gene encoding a threonine export protein is overexpressed by operatively linking said gene to a promoter, and isolating said L-threonine produced by said *Corynebacterium*.

41. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* pyc gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase to a promoter.

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

42. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase to a promoter.

43. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom^{dr} allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase to a promoter.

44. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said *Corynebacterium* or *Brevibacterium* also are overexpressed by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* mqa gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase to a promoter.

45. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein the *Corynebacterium* bacteria of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* are used.

46. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein the *Brevibacterium* bacteria of the species *Brevibacterium flavum* are used.

47. (New) A process for the preparation of L-threonine comprising fermenting L-threonine producing coryneform bacteria in which the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* thrE gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by operatively linking said thrE gene to a promoter, and isolating said L-threonine produced by said coryneform bacteria, wherein said coryneform bacteria have been transformed with a plasmid vector comprising the *C. glutamicum* thrE gene encoding said threonine export carrier protein and said plasmid vector is pZ1thrE, which is deposited in *Brevibacterium flavum* under deposit number DSM12840 (support page 12, line 23, 24).

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

48. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* pyc gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase to a promoter.

49. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase to a promoter.

50. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* hom^{dr} allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase to a promoter.

51. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking the *Corynebacterium glutamicum* mqo gene encoding malate:quinone oxidoreductase to a promoter.

52. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein the coryneform bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium* are used.

53. (New) The process of claim 52, wherein the *Corynebacterium* of the species *Corynebacterium glutamicum* are used.

54. (New) The process of claim 47, wherein the coryneform bacteria of the genus *Brevibacterium* are used.

55. (New) The process of claim 54, wherein the *Brevibacterium* of the species *Brevibacterium flavum* are used.

56. (New) A process for the fermentative preparation of L-threonine comprising:

ZIEGLER *et al.* - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

- (a) fermenting L-threonine producing Corynebacterium or Brevibacterium bacteria in which a *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by operatively linking said gene to a promoter; and, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking one or more of the coryneform genes selected from the group consisting of: the *Corynebacterium glutamicum pyc* gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom* gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom^{dr}* allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase, and the *Corynebacterium glutamicum mqo* gene encoding for malate:quinone oxidoreductase to a promoter;
- (b) concentrating the L-threonine in the fermentation medium or in said coryneform bacteria; and
- (c) isolating L-threonine from the fermentation medium or coryneform bacteria of step (b).

57. (New) A process for the fermentative preparation of L-threonine comprising:
- (a) fermenting L-threonine producing coryneform bacteria in which a *thrE* gene encoding a threonine export carrier protein is overexpressed by operatively linking said gene to a promoter; and, wherein said coryneform bacteria also overexpress by operatively linking one or more of the coryneform genes selected from the group consisting of: the *Corynebacterium glutamicum pyc* gene encoding pyruvate carboxylase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom* gene encoding for homoserine dehydrogenase, the *Corynebacterium glutamicum hom^{dr}* allele encoding a feedback-resistant homoserine dehydrogenase, and the *Corynebacterium glutamicum mqo* gene encoding for malate:quinone oxidoreductase to a promoter;
 - (b) concentrating the L-threonine in the fermentation medium or in said coryneform bacteria; and
 - (c) isolating L-threonine from the fermentation medium or coryneform bacteria of step (b)

ZIEGLER et al. - 09/963,521
Client/Matter: 021123-0282413

wherein said coryneform bacteria have been transformed with a plasmid vector comprising the *C. glutamicum* thrE gene encoding said threonine export carrier protein and said plasmid vector is pZ1thrE, which is deposited in *Brevibacterium flavum* under deposit number DSM12840.

58. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein said thrE gene comprises a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

59. (New) The process of claim 58, wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 398 to 1864 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

60. (New) The process of claim 59 , wherein said thrE gene comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 3.